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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:BROGERS:WS
APPROVED BY S/S-O:GTWOHIE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115651

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 1238 ACTION ATHENS INFO STATE
ADDIS ABABA ASMARA 02 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1238

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS CASC ET
SUBJ: TENNECO SEVEN

REF: A. KHARTOUM 1237; B. ADDIS ABABA 6155

1. ZEIN CONTACTED GRAHAM 11 HOURS JUNE 2 AND STATED HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO HIS SUPERIORS DESPITE POOR ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS. (GRAHAM BELIEVES HE WAS REFERRING TO RADIO COMMUNICATIONS). ZEIN HAD TWO IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM HIS ELF SUPERIORS. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE ELF/GC WAS WILLING TO DESIGNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET TENNECO REPS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME. THE SECOND MESSAGE INDICATED THAT A MESSENGER HAD CONVEYED WORD TO THE ELF/GC THAT ON MAY 31 HE (MESSENGER) HAD SEEN ALL THE TENNECO CAPTIVES AND THEY WERE IN GOOD HEALTH. THE MESSENGER HAD STRESSED THAT THEY WERE IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH.

2. ZEIN TOLD GRAHAM THAT THE ELF/GC HAD DECIDED TO MEET TENNECO AT ANY DESIGNATED POINT SELECTED BY TENNECO. HE STRESSED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION STRONGLY FELT THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD
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START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE, WITH THE ADVENT OF THE

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RAINY SEASON IN SEVERAL WEEKS, THE ELF WERE CONCERNED THAT THE TENNECO CAPTIVES COULD BECOME ILL DUE TO MALARIA AND OTHER MALADIES CONNECTED WITH THE RAINY SEASON.

3. ZEIN SAID THE NEXT MOVE UP TO TENNECO AND INDICATED THAT, ONCE TENNECO GAVE THE TIME AND PLACE FOR A MEETING, ZEIN WOULD FURNISH GRAHAM WITH THE NAME OF THE DESIGNATED ELF REPRESENTATIVE. HE INDICATED THAT HE, ZEIN, MIGHT BE INVOLVED AS NEGOTIATOR.

4. ZEIN AGAIN STRESSED URGENCY AND NEED TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS SOONEST.

5. ZEIN CONVEYED THE GOOD NEWS THAT, AS OF 2 DAYS AGO (31 MAY), AN ELF MESSENGER HAD SEEN THE TENNECO CAPTIVES AND ALL PERSONNEL WERE IN GOOD HEALTH. HE FURTHER STATED THAT, AS PROOF OF THEIR GOOD STATE OF HEALTH, LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS HAD BEEN SENT TO RELATIVES. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD SEEM TO SUBSTANTIATE INFO IN REFERENCE B CONCERNING RECEIPT LETTERS AND COLOR FILM ASMARA).

6. GRAHAM TOLD ZEIN THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HIS PEOPLE AND CONVEY ZEIN'S MESSAGE. GRAHAM WOULD INFORM ZEIN AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED TENNECO'S DECISION.

7. COMMENT: GRAHAM IMPRESSION AFTER 3 MEETINGS WITH ZEIN IS THAT ZEIN DEFINITELY APPEARS TO HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO SUPERIORS OF GROUP HOLDING TENNECO CAPTIVES. ZEIN HIMSELF COMES ACROSS AS SINCERE, VERY INTELLIGENT, AND GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT MATTER SHOULD BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY DIRECTNEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ELF AND TENNECO.

8. EMBASSY NOTES RECENT MESSAGES TENNECO NEGOTIATIONS NOT SENT OTTAWA AND THUS PRESENT MESSAGES NOT BEING SENT THERE. HOWEVER, DEPT MAY WISH REPEAT TO INFORM CANADIANS RECENT FAVORABLE DEVEL-OPMENTS IN SITUATION.
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